

Capsule Summary  
SM-885  
Griffin's Choice Cemetery  
Dameron  
Private

circa 1799-1830s

The Griffin's Choice Cemetery is all that remains of a once expansive plantation that was located near the rural crossroads of Dameron. Now consisting of only a few stones, the small family plot contains the graves of Ann M. Dent as well as Anna Milburn. A number of broken stones, footstones, and other markers litter the immediate area. Surviving markers are modest and feature gently scrolled tops. At present, the cemetery lies in a vacant lot of a rural residential subdivision on the north side of Captain's Court. Interestingly, the cemetery lies near another site that features a large gully lined with stones used for an unknown purpose. Further research should not only attempt to uncover the other occupants of the cemetery, but also determine the function of the nearby site.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. SM-885

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Griffin's Choice Cemetery is located on the north side of Captain's Court within a rural residential subdivision. Barely visible from the road and near the edge of an empty lot, the cemetery plot is marked as a slightly raised piece of ground. The cemetery is composed of only a few visible stones from the Dent and Milburn families although a number of foot stones are also visible. The modest stones feature curvilinear tops and date from the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The property is bounded by residential lots to the east and west, a wooded parcel to the north, and a vacant lot to the south. Interestingly, an excavated gully lined with large stones is located right beside the cemetery in the woods. Its function is unknown but is probably related to the former plantation.

Two of the most visible stones feature the names of Ann M. Dent and Anna Milburn. Unfortunately, the cemetery has become gradually overgrown and many of the stones have been broken.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-885

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Griffin's Choice Cemetery is all that remains of a once expansive plantation that was located near the rural crossroads of Dameron. Now consisting of only a few stones, the small family plot contains the graves of Ann M. Dent as well as Anna Milburn. A number of broken stones, footstones, and other markers litter the immediate area. Surviving markers are modest and feature gently scrolled tops. At present, the cemetery lies in a vacant lot of a rural residential subdivision on the north side of Captain's Court. Interestingly, the cemetery lies near another site that features a large gully lined with stones used for an unknown purpose. Further research should not only attempt to uncover the other occupants of the cemetery, but also determine the function of the nearby site.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-885

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Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property	<u>2.29 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>2.29 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Point No Point</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24 000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by residential lots to the east and west, a wooded parcel to the north, and a vacant lot to the south. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber EWA 1018, Folio 312.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

226

10'

LEXINGTON PARK 9 MI  
ST. JAMES 2.8 MI

223

222

110 000  
FEET

221

38° 07' 30"  
76° 22' 30"



SM-885  
Griffin's Choice Cemetery  
Dameron  
St. Mary's County  
Point No Point Quad

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and DMA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs

ORGE ISLAND  
0.111 SW



SM-885

Griffiths Choice Cemetery

St. Mary's Court

Kirk Ranzetta

Sept/00

Med SHPO

Looking NE

1 of 2





SM-885

Griffin's Choice Cemetery

St Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

sept/00

Md SHPO

Looking W

2 of 2